

MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

Interim President Miller T. Rodgers



INAUGURAL OLDER AMERICANS MONTH BREAKFAST

The Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans Inaugural Older Americans Month Breakfast was a big success! We heard from State Rep Sharon Chung, Congressman Eric Sorensen via video, IEA Member Dylan Toth, and ARA Field Director Maureen Dunn. Topics included state and federal legislative updates, why we need to fix Tier 2 pensions. We enjoyed the venue at IBEW 197 in Bloomington, IL, and catering of oatmeal bar, yogurt bar, and breakfast sandwiches from Nelson's Catering; as well as pastries, juices, and coffee.

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend.



Appreciation also goes to Janet Kilgus (IEA-Retired) and Stephanie Soderstrom (AFSCME Subchapter 79) for being on the planning committee with our Executive Director, Krystle Able.

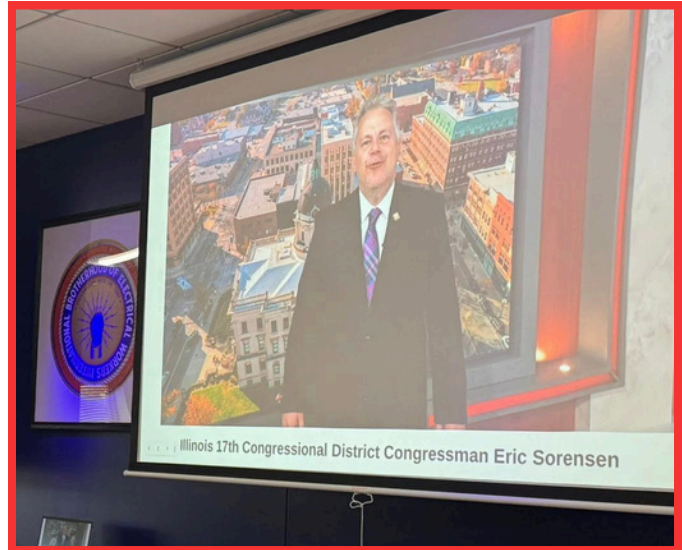
Location: IBEW 197 Bloomington

Date: May 17th

Special Guests: State Rep Sharon Chung, Congressman Eric Sorensen (via video), IEA member Dylan Toth, and Maureen Dunn, ARA Field Director!

Sponsors included: AFSCME Subchapter 79, Rooted Wealth, Institute for Financial Education, Illinois AFL CIO, Janet Kilgus and Friends, IEA-Retired, IBEW 197, West Central Union Retirees

MORE PHOTOS OF THE OLDER AMERICANS MONTH BREAKFAST IN BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS



Celebrating A Retiree Hero: Congresswoman Delia Ramirez



IARA Members closed out Older Americans Month by awarding Congresswoman Delia Ramirez with a Retiree Hero Award.

Representative Ramirez has earned a 100% legislative score with the Alliance for Retired Americans for her commitment to seniors, labor, retirement with dignity, and healthcare.

We appreciate all the work she is doing for Congressional District 3 and taking time to speak to our members.

Friday, May 30th, Chicago, Illinois



Pictured: Peter Mendoza (AFSCME Retired), Congresswoman Delia Ramirez, Theresa Mendoza (IARA Member), Krystle Able, (IARA Executive Director), Sonny Garcia (AFSCME Retired, and Charlotte Sanders (CTU Retired)

Protesting A Retiree Zero: Congressman Darin LaHood



IARA members have spent the Spring protesting Congressman Darin LaHood at his in-district offices for supporting cuts to Medicaid, Medicare, and SNAP in H.R. 1, the budget bill.

We have partnered with Protect Our Care, Alliance for Community Services, SEIU Healthcare, Citizen Action-IL, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, LIFE CIL, and other organizations to ensure Congress is hearing the voices of people who will be impacted by these cuts, including seniors and people with disabilities.



LaHood's Language	VS.	Illinois' Reality
<p>"I think we should take a scalpel approach [to Medicaid cuts] and not a sledgehammer."</p> <p>Rep. Darin LaHood on The Scott Miller Show Wednesday, May 21, 2025</p>		<p>500,000+ Illinoisans may lose Medicaid coverage based on the CBO assessment of the US House budget proposal.</p> <p>That's some scalpel.</p>
<p>Tell LaHood and every rep to keep their HANDS OFF MEDICAID. Call the hotline: 866-426-2631</p>		



Biennial Convention 2025



**The 2025 Biennial Convention of the
Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans**

Saturday, September 13th, 2025

**UAW Pat Greathouse Center
Ottawa, Illinois**

The IARA Biennial Convention is extra special in 2025 because we are electing FIVE officers--President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Chief Financial Officer.

Beginning in 2025, board officers will serve two year terms rather than four.

Also new in 2025, Sustaining Organization Vice Presidents will have the ability to appoint one labor director each to the board.

All affiliates who are current on their dues should have received the convention registration materials via USPS. If you have not, please contact our executive director, Krystle Able to get a copy emailed to you and confirmation on the number of delegates your organization is entitled to have.

Breakfast and lunch on Saturday are included for all attendees and guests.

Rooms at the UAW lodge are available for Friday night at additional cost and must be reserved in advance through Krystle Able at IARA.

**Krystle Able
309-831-5284**

Kable@illinoisretiredamericans.org



President
Don Todd
Executive Vice-President
Miller T. Rodgers

2025 Senior Power Celebration Sponsorship
Chicago Teachers Union–1901 WCarroll, Chicago 60612
Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025 -Doors Open at 11:30 -Lunch at 12:00pm

Our progress in the pursuit of dignity and economic security in retirement for all depends on the support of our members, affiliated organizations, and allies like you. Help us advance our mission, while celebrating our success, by sponsoring our 2025 Senior Power Celebration.

Your sponsorship grants you & your guests access to this year's event, and includes promotional features space in our ad book and a message of appreciation to your organization as part of the event where we will honor Il Senator Robert Peters with this year's Retiree Champion award, Brad Schwanda UAW Region 4, with the Jerry Prete Award, and Don Todd & Kim Johnson, IARA Board Members with the Frank and Beatrice Lumpkin Award. There will be additional fundraising opportunities during the event including a 50/50 raffle and other prizes.

Co-chair: \$3,000

- Full page design in our printed program The same design in our digital program which will be
- emailed to our members and subscribers A special acknowledgement during the opening of the
- event Event access for up to 16 guests of your choosing (2 tables)
-

Host: \$1,500

- Half page design in our printed program
- The same design in our digital program which will be emailed to our members and subscribers
- A special acknowledgement during the event
- Event access for up to 8 guests of your choosing (1 table)

Sponsor: \$750

- Your logo or a message of congratulations included in printed and digital program
- A special acknowledgement during the event
- Event Access for up to 4 guests of your choosing (½ table)

**For questions about sponsorship, or other event information,
contact Executive Director Krystle Able at kable@illinoisretiredamericans.org or by phone at
(309) 831-5284**

Please Email Krystle your ad or logo no later than September 30th, 2025



2025 Senior Power Celebration

Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025

Chicago Teachers Union Hall

11:30-1:30pm

Honoring

Illinois State Senator Robert Peters (Il-13)

Brad Schwanda, UAW Region 4 CAP Coordinator

Don Todd & Kim Johnson, IARA Board Members

Please Submit This Registration Form and Payment No Later than September 30th, 2025

Organization: _____ Contact Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

☐ **Yes**, We will be a **Co-Chair** at \$3,000

☐ **Yes**, We will be a **Host** at \$1,500

☐ **Yes**, We will be a **Sponsor** at \$750

☐ We would like ____ **individual tickets** at \$150 each

☐ We cannot attend but would like to support with a monetary donation of \$_____

The following guests will attend the Senior Power Celebration:
(If guests are unknown please indicate TBD and we will follow up with you)

	NAME	EMAIL	or	Phone Number
1.				
2.				
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9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
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16.				

Mail form and payment to:
Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans
PO Box 3737, Normal, Illinois 61761

Executive Director Krystle Able
309-831-5284 or Kable@illinoisretiredamericans.org

The Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans (IARA) is an organization described in 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(4). It is exempt from taxation under 26 U.S.C. § 501(c). The funds raised by the 2025 Senior Power Celebration will be used to support IARA's principle mission.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT BECOME A MEMBER

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY NETWORK (CAN)

The Community Advocacy Network (CAN) is the community and individual membership program of the Alliance for Retired Americans. CAN members, in partnership with sponsoring organizations of the Alliance, work to ensure that all seniors and retirees can live a life of dignity and retirement security.

The CAN program is the mechanism to bring non-union members and individual union members together into the advocacy programs of the Alliance. Our focus is to protect and expand Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and pensions, to provide retirement security on the Federal level; as well as affordable healthcare, aging in place, worker's rights, pensions, and more in Illinois.

Membership Definition: A CAN member is an individual who pays their own dues to the Illinois Alliance and is not a member of a participating sponsoring organization

CAN is designed to give a voice to the individual members of the Alliance, and provide a mechanism to reach out to other individuals and community based organizations. Through this outreach, new individual members and activists can become members of the Alliance.



**JOIN THE ILLINOIS
ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED
AMERICANS CAN NETWORK
TODAY FOR A DONATION
OF \$10 PER YEAR**

TINYURL.COM/ILLINOISALLIANCE

Executive Director: Krystle Able
Kable@Illinoisretiredamericans.org
PO Box 373 Normal Illinois 61761

